

Develop a Prototype Tool to Replace a Paper Environmental Review Process



Project Title	Develop a Prototype Tool to Replace a Paper Environmental Review Process
Project Summary	Develop a prototype automated tool for Indian Health Service (IHS) employees that asks questions of employees responsible for environmental review of IHS projects in order to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Country	United States

Project Description

The Indian Health Service (IHS) mission is to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. It accomplishes this through people, partnerships, quality, and resources and operates a network of health facilities. In order to advance this mission, the IHS must construct and upgrade facilities such as hospitals, clinics, and quarters for staff as well as sanitation facilities (drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste facilities). IHS must ensure environmental requirements are met in part by reviewing potential impacts. The current system uses a paper checklist to evaluate projects and there is consideration of updating to an automated process. This Virtual Student Intern project involves development of a prototype system that would help determine whether an Environmental Assessment was needed for proposed IHS projects and address the potential for impacts to environmental resources such as floodplains, endangered species, wetlands, and historic sites. The automated tool would ask questions, store information, and require the upload of additional information depending on the answers given with a goal of ensuring environmental resources were considered in the process of constructing or maintaining health facilities.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)
Coding
Design thinking

Additional Information

Knowledge of or interest in environmental issues helpful, but not required. For more information on the Indian Health Service see www.ihs.gov.

Language Requirements

None